**Campus Visits**

If you are planning on visiting colleges this spring, here are some things to keep in mind:

* A college is so much more than the name or test scores required to get in.
* You’ll learn from everything – classmates, roommates, guest speakers, clubs, jobs.
* You’ll do your best if your school is a “good fit” for you. That means know yourself and what is/isn’t important to you or what is/isn’t necessary for you.
* You’ll want to feel comfortable, but excited and challenged.

**Before** going on a visit, please contact the university about the following that might interest you:

* Parking/public transport arrangements
* Campus Tour
* Class visit
* Information session
* Meal
* Events
* Meeting with student or professor
* Interview (This varies, some are “informational,” some are “selective,” some colleges don’t offer either).

While there, try to pick up/look into:

* College newspaper
* Brochures on special programs
* Bulletin boards
* Department areas (to get a feel for professors, departmental activities, etc)

Read about, then look around for/ask questions about **the academics** that might indicate if it’s a good fit for you:

* Class sizes per discipline
* Teaching style of classes: lecture, discussion, hands-on, a combination
* Teachers: are they all professors, teaching assistants or a combination?
* Possibilities for accepting AP credits
* Number/type of coursework requirements
* Academic calendar and average course load: semesters, trimesters, quarters
* Co-op programs, lab/research opportunities, experiential learning opportunities in the community
* List of possible majors
* Possibilities for taking courses at nearby colleges
* Post-graduation trends (further study, med school, internships, jobs)

Look around for/ask questions about **the students** that might indicate if it’s a good fit for you:

* Academic attitudes
* Social styles
* Interests
* Backgrounds
* Meeting points (cafes, department spaces, library, rec center)

Look around for/ask questions about **the atmosphere** that might indicate if it’s a good fit for you:

* Clubs/activities
* Events / typical weekends
* Residence policies (do they encourage students to live on campus, or do students live anywhere)
* Residence hall advisors (do they organize events, enforce college policies, serve as a resource, or something else?)
* Role of Greek life on campus
* Car policies (will most students use cars, walk, bike, or use public transportation)
* Opportunities for on campus employment
* Career/internship placement services
* Study abroad

Look around for/ask questions about **the facilities** that might indicate if it’s a good fit for you:

* Housing (ask to see a dorm – but don’t forget they are almost all really small)
* Dining
* Athletics and recreation
* Health and student services (including study support, tutoring)
* Library
* Amenities (computer labs, printing, bike/car facilities, summer storage)
* other facilities of interest depending on your academic focus

Look around for/ask questions about things about **the location** that might indicate if it’s a good fit for you:

* Activities (Don’t forget most college campuses have MANY activities free of charge. Those in the community will come at an additional cost).
* Opportunities
* Transportation
* Shopping
* Dining